

REGULAR MEETING OF THE
CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION
CULVER CITY, CALIFORNIA

June 18, 2019
7:00 P.M.

Call to Order & Roll Call

Chair Wisnosky Stehlin called the regular meeting of the Cultural Affairs Commission to order at 7:01 P.M. in the Mike Balkman Council Chambers at City Hall.

Present: Chair Jeannine Wisnosky Stehlin
Vice Chair Zoltan Pali
Commissioner Len Dickter
Commissioner Tania Fleischer
Commissioner Brenda Williams

Staff: Christine Byers, Cultural Affairs Coordinator
Susan Obrow, Special Events Coordinator
Louise Coffey-Webb, Public Art Collections Manager

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Pledge of Allegiance

Sehnita Mattison, Culver City Cultural Affairs Foundation Board Member, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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Public Comment – Items Not On the Agenda

Chair Wisnosky Stehlin invited public comment.

No cards were received and no speakers came forward.

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Order of the Agenda

No changes were made.

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Action Items

Item A-1

CAC – Consideration and Recommendation of a Revised Memorandum of Understanding Between the Culver City Cultural Affairs Foundation and the City of Culver City

Serena Wright-Black, Assistant City Manager, provided a summary of the material of record.

Chair Wisnosky Stehlin discussed Cultural Affairs Foundation Liaison Subcommittee meetings with City attorneys and members of the Cultural Affairs Foundation Board; changes to the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU); Board agreement to the final changes; and she felt that the Foundation would work to prioritize raising funds for the City as well as doing their own projects.

Council Member Dickter reported that the City Council had asked the Liaison Subcommittee to meet with the Foundation to work out previous issues with the MOU; he discussed clarifying language with regard to intent and action; the need for the Liaison Subcommittee to meet regularly with the Foundation as a bridge to the Commission; concern with the removal of the word “first” in Section 5L; the necessity that support of the Commission’s work plan be the first priority of the Foundation; providing an actionable fundraising total; concern that Cultural Affairs is the first to be cut when there is a budget shortfall or economic downturn; and concern that it be made clear that the Commission is the first priority of the Foundation.

Sehnita Mattison, Culver City Cultural Affairs Foundation Board Member, asserted that their mission is to support arts and culture in the city with a clear understanding to work with the City on their work plan; she discussed City priorities and helping fund the work plan; expressed concern with the potential for future changes; and concern with meeting the obligations of the City work plan but being asked to do more.

Discussion ensued between Ms. Mattison, staff and Commissioners regarding acknowledgement that once the City

work plan funding goals are met, the Foundation should be free to focus on their other projects; the intent to establish an agreed-upon work plan that the Foundation supports; meeting obligations; and protections for the Board and for the Foundation.

Jim Clarke, Culver City Cultural Affairs Foundation Vice Chair, pointed out that language had been added to indicate that, "The Foundation shall make support for the Cultural Affairs programs as outlined in the work plan their priority."

Further discussion ensued between meeting attendees, staff and Commissioners regarding clarification that once the obligation is met, the City gets in line for funding with everyone else; development of an activity plan by the Foundation; the importance of Cultural Affairs in the city; the need for funding to support the Commission work plan; concern with being underfunded; ensuring that the language of the MOU is clear; the purpose of the separation; potential scenarios that could create difficulty for both parties; changes to the work plan; the Foundation's Activity Plan; the per project budget; attaching specific amounts to requests; concern with the work plan being subject to the whims of a private foundation; the disbursement schedule; the budget process; the agreement between the City and the Foundation; meeting fundraising goals; clarification that other entities have to apply through a grant application process; availability of funds; strength of the contract; the initial MOU; concern that changes were made after an agreement was reached between the Foundation and the Liaison Subcommittee; and concern with the potential for late and insufficient funding because the City was not placed first.

Ashley Rodgers, Culver City Cultural Affairs Foundation Board Chair, indicated that she was amenable to having an emergency meeting of the Board to consider adding the word "first" back into the MOU.

Further discussion ensued between meeting attendees, staff and Commissioners regarding appreciation for consideration of the change; the goal to raise funds and involve all members of the community; support for the integrity of the

Foundation; submission of future Foundation Activity Plans; agreement to reinsert the word "first" in Section 5L; and next steps in the process.

MOVED BY VICE CHAIR PALI, SECONDED BY CHAIR WISNOSKY STEHLIN AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION: APPROVE THE REVISED MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE CITY OF CULVER CITY AND THE CULVER CITY CULTURAL AFFAIRS FOUNDATION WITH THE REINSTATEMENT OF THE WORD "FIRST" IN SECTION 5L AS WELL AS OTHER PROPOSED AMENDMENTS BY THE BOARD.

Jim Clarke, Culver City Cultural Affairs Foundation Vice Chair, reported dropping off copies of the brochure that is being used to raise funds.

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Public Comment – Items Not On the Agenda (Continued)

Chair Wisnosky Stehlin invited public participation.

No cards were received and no speakers came forward.

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Receipt of Correspondence

Louise Coffey-Webb, Public Art Collections Manager, indicated that no correspondence had been received.

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Items from Staff

Susan Obrow, Special Events Coordinator, provided handouts to Commissioners announcing upcoming Performing Arts Grant performances and she indicated invitations would be going out soon for the Creative Economy Stakeholders meeting on July 11 at The Wende Museum, noting that any suggestions for the guest list should be forwarded to staff as soon as possible.

Christine Byers, Cultural Affairs Coordinator, reported on recent productive meetings of the Artist Laureate Subcommittee and the Public Art Subcommittee.

Louise Coffey-Webb, Public Art Collections Manager, reported on maintenance and repair efforts for certain public artworks in the city.

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Items from Commissioners

Commissioner Fleischer reported being reappointed to the Commission and thanked everyone for their support; she indicated that she had made recommendations to the City Council regarding things she wanted to do moving forward including improving visibility; she discussed marketing and publicity; hotels coming into the city; tourism dollars; working to continue the role of the Creative Economy as a major funding source for the City; she asked Commissioners for their ideas; discussed the recent Artist Laureate Subcommittee meeting; expressed appreciation to the Culver Arts Foundation for funding in support of the program; reported attending community meetings at The Wende Museum regarding use of space; discussed the Community Advisory Council; bringing arts to work in the community; and she reported that her youngest child had graduated high school.

Commissioner Dickter reported attending the last meeting of the Los Angeles County Arts Commission task force on the new probation center on Vermont Avenue; discussed arts intervention; the donation of space to an arts organization to work with those on probation; the Creative Economy, workforce training and development; programs happening at the County Supervisor's level; and a potential future meeting to work together.

Vice Chair Pali discussed amending the Art in Public Places Ordinance with regard to criteria for assessing the quality of new artworks.

Chair Wisnosky Stehlin reported on the recent Artist Laureate Subcommittee meeting; discussed upcoming Performing Arts Grant Subcommittee meetings; suggested that the Artist Laureate Program and the Performing Arts Program

be included in the Creative Economy meeting on July 11; she reported that a children's chorus had performed before the most recent Cultural Affairs Foundation Board meeting; and she announced that her show, *Boxing Lessons* had been noted as Critic's Choice in the *Los Angeles Times*.

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Adjournment

There being no further business, at 8:23 P.M., the Cultural Affairs Commission adjourned to a meeting to be held at 7:00 P.M. on July 16, 2019 in the Mike Balkman Chambers at City Hall.

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SECRETARY of the Cultural Affairs Commission

APPROVED _____

JEANNINE WISNOSKY STEHLIN
CHAIR of the Culver City Cultural Affairs Commission
Culver City, California

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that, on the date below written, these minutes were filed in the Office of the City Clerk, Culver City, California and constitute the Official Minutes of said meeting.

Jeremy Green
CITY CLERK

Date